

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended). A communication arrangement for connecting together a plurality of nodes, said arrangement comprising:

at least one opto-electronic S/E transducer each connected to one of said plurality of nodes, each transducer generating a first electrical output signal in response to an optical input signal from one of said nodes, said each transducer determining a value of said first electrical output signal and outputting, during a period of time when there is an absence of an input optical signal from said one node, a second electrical signal as an error signal incrementing a counter assigned to the first electrical output signal to determine an error frequency when said value of said first electrical signal is less than a predetermined value.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for determining errors in data transmission among a plurality of nodes connected to one another, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one optical module for converting an input optical signal from one of said nodes to an output electrical signal;
determining a value of said output electrical signal;
comparing said value to a base value; and
outputting, during a time when there is an absence of input optical signals, an error signal when said value is less than said base value, the error signal incrementing a counter assigned to the output electrical signal to determine an error frequency.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7,
wherein said error signal is stored in a memory element for subsequent determination of a frequency of faulty data transmission.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 78, including the step of reading out a status of said memory element.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 78, wherein said memory element is addressable.

11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the memory element is resettable after at least one of the determination of the faulty transmission and a readout by a microcomputer.

12. (New) The communication arrangement according to claim 6, further comprising a memory element for subsequent determination of a frequency of faulty data transmission.